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July 18, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
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From: David E. Janssen
Chief Executive Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE STATUS REPORT

In accordance with your Board's direction on April 4, 2006, this Report provides a status update on the implementation of the 11 key programs that are included in the Los Angeles County Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI). The Chief Executive Office (CEO) continues to facilitate implementation work groups for specific key programs in participation with the Community Development Commission (CDC), the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH), Mental Health (DMH), Public Social Services (DPSS), Probation, and the Sheriff. Representatives from these County agencies and Departments comprise the County HPI Team.

The CEO continues to meet with Councils of Government (COGs), city managers and other city officials, as well as other government agencies and community-based service providers regarding the implementation of HPI programs. Our office is offering assistance and technical support to communities that are interested and willing to work with us to make a positive contribution to assist homeless across the County.

The CEO is also facilitating a process, in conjunction with the County HPI Team to develop a funding plan to reprogram unspent Fiscal Year (FY) 2006-07 HPI funds which were reallocated to the Homeless and Housing Program Fund (HHPF) as a part of your Board's approval of the FY 2007-08 Budget. The goal of the reprogramming effort will be to identify funding gaps within the existing projects and to explore new program ideas to serve homeless individuals and families that are not currently included in the

HPI. With the help of the CEO Budget analysts, unspent funds have been identified and a recommendation as to how these funds might be used is being developed with the County HPI Team. My office will submit the findings for your Board's consideration in September as part of the FY 2007-08 Supplemental Changes to the County Budget.

The following is a status update on the implementation of the 11 key HPI programs:

Homeless and Housing Program Fund

▪ City/Community Programs Request for Proposal (RFP)

A County work group, led by CDC, has developed the RFP for the competitive allocation of the \$32 million "City/Community Programs" of the HHPF. The RFP process was approved by your Board on June 26, 2007. Advertisement of the RFP will take place during the first two weeks of July and the RFP will be issued in mid-July for a 60-day application period. Several mandatory proposers' conferences are scheduled in strategic areas of the County, one in each Supervisorial District, beginning July 31 through August 2, 2007. Proposals will be due within 60 days after the release date.

▪ Pre-Development Revolving Loan Fund RFP

The \$20 million *Pre-Development Revolving Loan Fund* will also be competitively allocated to lending institutions. The RFP process was also approved by your Board on June 26, 2007. Advertisement of the RFP will take place during the first two weeks of July and the RFP will be issued in mid-July for a 60-day application period. A mandatory proposers' conference will be held on July 31, 2007, at the CDC Headquarters in Monterey Park. Proposals will be due within 60 days after the release date.

▪ DPSS Administered Programs

- *Moving Assistance for CalWORKs non-Welfare-to-Work and non-CalWORKs Homeless Families in Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary Group Living* is a successful program that DPSS has administered for over two years using CalWORKs incentive funds. Funding for this program was exhausted in June 2007 and the program is now being sustained with HHPF dollars. *Moving Assistance for the non-CalWORKs Population* was implemented March 1, 2007.

- *Rental Subsidy for CalWORKs and Non-CalWORKs Homeless Families in Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary Group Living Program* was implemented December 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007, respectively. CalWORKs Program staff has conducted an outreach to more than 100 case managers representing approximately 70 emergency shelter agencies to provide information on the availability of the Rental Subsidy Program. Outreach efforts to promote this Program will continue. There were 14 applications for the CalWORKs Rental Subsidy between February to May 2007, and one application for the non-CalWORKs Rental Subsidy for the month of March 2007.
- *Eviction Prevention for CalWORKs non-Welfare-to-Work Homeless Families* is a program that DPSS has been administering for over two years using DPSS incentive funds. These funds were exhausted in June 2007 and the program is now being sustained with HHPF dollars.
- *Moving Assistance for Single Adults in Emergency/Transitional Shelter or Similar Temporary Group Living Program* began operation Countywide in March 2007. This Program is available Countywide, but is administered out of the six DPSS General Relief (GR) offices where the GR rental subsidies are available.

▪ **Homeless Recuperative Care Program**

DHS continues to work on the development of a contract for the *Discharge of Homeless Recuperative Care Program*. Very recent developments regarding the siting of the recuperative beds will cause a delay in moving forward with this Program. It is not possible at this time to project when the project will be able to move forward; your Board will be kept advised as information becomes available. Because the community provider who prepared the *Recuperative Care Program* budget underestimated the amount of funding it would take to fund 15 beds for two years, the CEO invoked his delegated authority to increase the funding for this Program by 10 percent and DHS will need to reduce the length of the contract to 20 months. Therefore, one of the HPI reprogramming spending plan recommendations will be to request that your Board rollover the Recuperative Care Program fund and provide additional funding to ensure the demonstration program is administered for the full 24-month period. The provider's underestimation was the result of basing their estimate on their current facility, which is in Skid Row and is a less expensive location to operate this type of facility.

▪ **Moving Assistance/Rental Subsidies for Transition Age Youth (TAY)**

DCFS and Probation are continuing their planning for the *Moving Assistance/Rental Subsidies for TAY* exiting the Foster Care and Probation Systems Program. Funding for this Program was split between the two Departments and they have tailored the Program to meet the needs of their respective target population.

- DCFS started assessing potential clients on April 15, 2007. Through June 2007, 17 applications were received. Five clients were deemed Program eligible and will be enrolled in the Program after DCFS receives the required outstanding documentation, e.g., rental/lease agreements and pay stubs. Two of the 17 youth have withdrawn their applications and one was denied.
- Probation's Transition to Permanency Project (TPP) is fully staffed with two full time Deputy Probation Officers II. Probation has continued discussions with various agencies, including the Sheriff's Department, DMH, community-based organizations, and internal Probation operations about the scope of the program, referral process, and eligibility and staffing. The Department continues to conduct outreach to youth and to address challenges with entering landlords into the County's Vender Registration system. The registration problem is posing a barrier to listing landlords on eCAPS; and, therefore, payments cannot be issued. As of May 2007:
 - Six youth have been placed in permanent housing
 - Three placements are pending
 - Seven youth are currently being assisted to find housing and/or employment

▪ **Jail-In Reach Program**

The Sheriff's Department explored the possibility of leveraging Shelter Plus Care funding with its \$1.5 million HPI allocation, but research determined that the delay and costs outweighed the benefits. The Sheriff's Department has completed the *Jail-In Reach* RFP and has submitted it to County Counsel for review. It is estimated that the RFP will be released in July with proposals due in August 2007.

Administration Program

The Administration funds of the HHPF are under the control of the CEO and are being used for two purposes: First, to provide gap funds for programs that need increases due to unexpected changes in the Program structure and/or cost changes. Second, \$2 million of the Administration funds will be used for an SSI and other benefits advocacy program.

- **SSI and Other Benefits Advocacy Program**

The CEO chaired a benefits advocacy work group which included both public and private partners from DHS, DMH, DPSS, Sheriff, Mental Health Advocacy Services, Social Security Administration, and the Disability Determination Service. The work group drafted a Statement of Work (SOW), which is currently under final review and will be released in a competitive RFP process. The RFP is targeted for release no later than September 30, 2007. The SOW incorporates best practices learned through the SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) efforts.

- **Board Approved Programs**

- **Skid Row Families Demonstration Project**

The contract with Beyond Shelter to implement the Skid Row Families Demonstration Project (SRFDP) became effective January 18, 2007. The target demographics for the SRFDP are homeless families in Skid Row. A multi-departmental team comprised of staff from DCFS, DMH, DPH, and DPSS is working with Beyond Shelter to serve 500 families during the term of this Project. Through June 15, 2007, 196 families have been referred to the SRFDP and 106 have been enrolled in Beyond Shelter's Housing First Project, which includes housing specialist services to assist each family in obtaining permanent, affordable housing. To date, approximately 140 families have been provided emergency shelter within 24 hours of enrollment in the project. It is anticipated that many families will receive Section 8 vouchers in the very near future. At present, Beyond Shelter, DCFS, and the City of Los Angeles are working on a streamlined process to approve Section 8 vouchers. It was projected that the application process would take six weeks, but it has turned out to be a 12-week turnaround time. Thus, the expense of sheltering families in hotels has increased because their length of hotel stays has been extended. Once the Section 8 vouchers are issued, the permanent housing services phase of the SRFDP will begin, in which families enrolled will be assigned a Housing First Case Manager,

who will work with the family to develop an individualized Family Action Plan. The families will be provided case management support during the housing search phase of the program and for up to six months after their move into permanent housing.

- **Transformation of Cold/Wet Weather Beds to Year-Round Shelter**

Funding in the amount of \$1 million was transferred to Los Angeles Housing Services Authority to sustain the New Image program, which provides 996 beds each night; the funding is being used to leverage \$4.9 million from the City of Los Angeles.

- **Santa Monica Homeless/Community Court**

The *Santa Monica Homeless/Community Court Program* was implemented in February 2007; 34 unduplicated participants have been referred to the Program through May 11, 2007. Seven of the 34 participants had their first session in May. To date, 16 of the 34 have returned to Court with progress reports and three participants had their charges dismissed at their initial hearing. The City of Santa Monica has cleared the County agreement with their City Attorney. It is anticipated that the contract will be executed within the next two weeks.

- **Access to Housing for Health**

DHS began enrolling homeless patients being released from County hospitals for possible placement into permanent housing and provision of necessary support services on March 1, 2007. From March through May 2007, there have been 72 referrals, 13 clients have been enrolled with five pending, five clients have exited the Program, and 54 clients have been deemed ineligible for Section 8 housing because of their criminal background and/or due to the fact that they are not frequent users of DHS services, they are not disabled, or they are too sick to live independently.

- **Weingart Center Operations**

Funding has been transferred to the Center and will allow for continued operations of its ten residential programs for a period of six to nine months while they work to secure other funding.

Stabilization Centers

On June 26, 2007, your Board approved the use of \$1.2 million in ongoing General Fund stabilization center funding for development and implementation of a homeless program by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments to augment homeless services for the 27 member cities. As a part of the June 26 action, your Board also approved allocating \$500,000 in ongoing stabilization center funding to the City of Long Beach for a program targeting homeless veterans. Discussions are ongoing with other cities, COGs, and housing and homeless advocates, as well as with Board offices, public, and nonprofit agencies to develop concepts that align with specific subregions/community needs.

Skid Row Homeless Family Assessment Center (HFAC)

The CEO, along with staff from DCFS, DHS, DMH, DPH, and DPSS are working with the Weingart Center Association, JWCH Institute, Inc., and the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles to provide space for the County staffed Skid Row Family Assessment Team at the proposed Homeless Medical Clinic at the Leavey Building owned by the Weingart Center Association and located on San Pedro Street between 5th and 6th Streets. Pending completion of the new Homeless Medical Clinic, staff is working to relocate the team at the Weingart Center Association facility at 6th and San Pedro.

Homeless Court Program

The CEO is working with the County Public Defender, Superior Court, and the Los Angeles City Attorney on the plan for enhancing the *Homeless Court Program*. Current discussions are focused on the hiring of staff, three of the staff will be contract employees and two will be Superior Court staff. The CEO has provided an advance notice to your Board of his intention to hire Public Counsel as a sole source contractor, and a sole source contract is currently being drafted. A Departmental Service Order (DSO) and MOU with Superior Court are also being prepared. It is projected that the contract, DSO, and MOU will be completed in July 2007.

Prototype Court

DMH's *Prototype/Co-Occurring Disorder Court Program* was implemented on April 1, 2007. The Program is a collaborative among various County departments and contract agencies including Alcohol and Drug Program Administration, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Superior Court, District Attorney's Office, DMH, Special

Service for Groups, and Portals. Currently, the Program has enrolled ten clients who are receiving both mental health services through the Full Service Partnership Program and alcohol and drug treatment through a Proposition 36 provider.

Housing Locators/Housing Specialists

DPSS implemented their project for CalWORKs homeless families in September 2006. A total of 1,309 referrals have been initiated resulting in 123 placements for the period of September 2006 through April 2007.

Since the hiring freeze has been lifted, DMH has successfully hired eight of the 14 allocated adult housing specialists' positions and eight of the nine allocated TAY housing specialists' positions. From June 18 - 20, 2007, DMH conducted the Housing Specialist Training Institute for the recently hired staff, including staff at directly operated clinics and contract agencies. The three-day training was an overwhelming success with an average daily attendance of approximately 87 participants. The initial review of training evaluations indicates that the event was well received by all attendees.

Housing Database

The public rollout of the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACOLA) Section 8 vacancy listings was pushed forward from Fall to Spring 2007, and approximately 10,000 landlords have been notified of the new property listing service. The site went public on Friday, June 1, 2007. Landlords can now register properties, and HACOLA voucher holders can now access vacancy listings by going to www.hacola.org. The contractor, Socialserve.com continues to have regular meetings with members of County departments and key stakeholder agencies to develop a restricted-access site listing emergency and special needs housing resources. As of June 21, 2007:

- 472 landlords had registered on the site
- 3,093 units were listed on the site
- 94,895 housing searches were conducted in 8,846 "trackable" site visits.

General Relief Housing Subsidy and Case Management Project

This Project provides funding for rental subsidies for up to 900 homeless GR participants, offered in six pilot District Offices. Currently, there are 563 participants enrolled and 240 participants receiving the rental subsidy. Effective March 2007, the

Project was infused with "once-in-a-lifetime" move-in assistance funds up to \$500 per homeless participant; this funding has enhanced the success of the Project by facilitating participants' access to permanent housing.

HPI: Adult Move-In Costs Program

This Program was specifically designed to assist with securing appropriate permanent housing for current and former GR participants now receiving SSI. The Program funds up to \$800 to include: last month's rent, security deposits, move-in costs/deposits, moving expenses, appliances, and any required miscellaneous expenses. This Program was implemented in March 2007 and has had four applications to-date.

DPSS-Sheriff's Homeless Release Project

Effective August 2006, DPSS staff began processing applications received from the Sheriff Department's Community Transition Unit (CTU) for GR/Food Stamp, CalWORKs/Food Stamp, and Food Stamp only applications, and Medi-Cal referrals for homeless inmates being released from Men's Central Jail (MCJ) and Century Regional Detention Facility. The Project recently received the 2007 NACO (National Association of Counties) Achievement Award.

Effective March 15, 2007, the Cashier Operation was implemented at the CTU at MCJ. Upon the inmate's release, the applicant's case is processed and benefits issued on-site.

Referrals through April 2007	
Total referrals received from the CTU	4,240
Total referrals rejected	630
Total referrals accepted	3,610

Of the 3,610 total referrals accepted	
Total referrals approved	1,033
Total denied	110
Total referrals pending inmate release	1,142
Total released inmates – No Show	1,325

Issuances by type for total referrals approved	
GR/Food Stamps	1,019
Food Stamp Only	2
CalWORKs	12

DPSS-DHS Homeless Release Project

Since July 25, 2006, DPSS staff outstationed at LAC+USC Medical Center has processed referrals for homeless patients being discharged from DHS' hospitals. During the second quarter of 2007, staff was outstationed at Harbor/UCLA, MLK/Drew Medical Center, and Olive View Hospital.

Referrals through April 2007	
Total referrals received	440

Of the 440 total referrals received	
Total number of approvals	154
Applications pending	8
Total referrals rejected	276
Total referrals canceled	1
Total referrals denied	1

Issuances by type for total number of approvals	
GR/Food Stamps (FS)	129
GR Only	24
FS Only	1
CalWORKs	0

Homeless and Service Enriched Housing Initiatives Coordinator

The CEO conducted an open competitive recruitment for a Homeless and Housing Coordinator and hired Garrison Smith; Mr. Smith started in his role of Homeless Coordinator on April 16, 2007.

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The next status report will be provided to your Board at the end of September 2007. In addition, we will continue to brief your Board's Homeless Deputies on a regular basis. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Garrison Smith at (213) 974-4673 or via e-mail at gsmith@ceo.lacounty.gov.

DEJ:LS
GS:MDC:hn

c: Sheriff
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Children and Family Services
Director of Community and Senior Services
Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services
Director of Mental Health
Director and Health Officer of Public Health
Director of Public Social Services
Executive Director of the Community Development Commission
Executive Officer/Clerk of Superior Court
Public Defender